

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08185 161252Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----162329Z 018088 /14

R 161205Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5073
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWIAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8185

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV EG
SUBJ: FOR PROJECT: PROGRESS (SORT OF) REPORT

REF: CAIRO 7988

1. OUROUSSOFF REPORTS THAT HE HAS RECEIVED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED IN PARIS. HE HINTS TERMINOLOGY SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC, SINCE MEMORANDUM HAS BEEN SIGNED BY ONLY ONE PARTY--FORD. IN IT, COMPANY STATES ITS AGREEMENT TO EGYPTIAN APPROVAL OF PROJECT, WITH FINAL WORK TO BEGIN ON MAY 15 FOR PREPARATION OF LETTER FROM GOE, WHICH WILL

(A) REMOVE FORD FROM BOYCOTT IN EGYPT AND

(B) MAKE GAZARINE OF NASCAR THE SINGLE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. OUROUSSOFF HAS SCHEDULED MEETING ON 18TH WITH GAMAL EL NAZER TO PROCEED WITH THIS PLAN. OUROUSSOFF HAS PREPARED DRAFT LETTER OF WHAT FORD WANTS IN VERY SPECIFIC
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TERMS. DRAFT CITES APPLICABLE LAWS AND STIPULATES ISSUANCE OF A FINAL DECREE LIFTING BOYCOTT WITH ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE IN OFFICIAL JOURNAL. HE IS NOT CERTAIN GOE WILL ACCEPT DRAFT AS WRITTEN, BUT STATED THESE ARE HIS INSTRUCTIONS. OUROUSSOFF WILL VISIT EMBASSY FOLLOWING SESSION WITH EL NAZER.

3. AS MATTER OF INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE OUROUSSOFF TOLD US GAZARINE IS "IN HIDING" IN ALEXANDRIA TO ESCAPE WRATH OF MININD SHAHIN. LATTER HAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED WORD FROM OFFICE OF PRIMIN SALEM THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO MEMORANDUM SIGNED MAY 8 AT INSISTENCE OF FONMIN FAHMY (CAIRO 7867). SHAHIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO FORD PROJECT, CITING INSUFFICIENT LOCAL CONTENT AND SMALL FORD INVESTMENT, AND FOLLOWING HEATED VERBAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SHAHIN AND GAZARINE ON THIS SUBJECT, GAZARINE WENT TO ALEXANDRIA TO WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS PLACING HIM IN CHARGE OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT. ASSUMING FORD DRAFT LETTER, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, IS APPROVED, KEY QUESTION REMAINING IS WHO WILL SIGN FOR EGYPTIANS. WE CONTINUE TO THINK IT WILL HAVE TO BE PRIMIN, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SHAHIN'S REPORTED RESISTANCE. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT IN HIS MESSAGE TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ON ANNIVERSARY OF MAY 15 CORRECTIVE REVOLUTION, PRESIDENT SADAT MADE NUMBER OF VERY FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO SHAHIN. IN ADDITION TO COUNTERING RECENT CRITICISM OF HIS PERFORMANCES AS MININD, THIS MAY SERVE TO INDICATE THAT HE WILL NOT BE REMOVED, AS SO MANY OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN HOPING.
EILTS

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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